

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUKAVU 00016 251236Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 DHA-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 /083 W

-----260209Z 100907 /14

R 250900Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL BUKAVU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0409

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUKAVU 0016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: REACTION IN BUKAVU TO RECENT EVENTS IN SHABA

1. THE REACTION IN BUKAVU TO THE INVASION OF SHABA HAS BEEN A MIXTURE OF INTEREST, CONFUSION, CURIOSITY, NERVOUSNESS, EXCITEMENT, AND CYNICISM. DURING THE FIRST DAYS AFTER THE ATTACKS INFORMATION WAS VERY SCANTY. THE FOLLOWING WEEK BROUGHT A RASH OF RUMORS, EVEN ASSERTING AT ONE POINT THAT LUBUMBASHI HAD FALLEN. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BECAME NERVOUS, THOUGH NONE TO THE POINT OF PREPARING TO LEAVE. THEIR FEARS WERE OF A POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN IN LAW AND ORDER, ESPECIALLY OF MUTINY AND RAMPAGE BY THE ZAIRIAN ARMY. THE FIGHTING IS FELT TO BE VERY FARAWAY, AND NO DIRECT THREAT, AND MOST PEOPLE HERE REGARD THE INVADING KATANGANS WITH RESPECT AND SYMPATHY. THERE IS LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMY.

2. BELGIAN MISSIONARIES WORKING AMIDST THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN BUKAVU REPORT THAT THE MOOD THERE HAS BEEN OF EXCITEMENT AND ANTICIPATION. THE PEOPLE ARE WAITING PEACEFULLY, BUT WOULD WELCOME ANY CHANGE WITH OPEN ARMS. IN BUKAVU THERE IS NO RPT NO SYMPATHY OR LOYALTY FOR THE GOVERNMENT FORCES, EXCEPT AMONG THOSE ZAIROIS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE PRESENT REGIME.

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PAGE 02 BUKAVU 00016 251236Z

HOWEVER, FEW EUROPEANS OR UPPER-CLASS ZAIROIS BELIEVE THAT A CHANGE IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE TO KIVU.

3. THE SITUATION HAS BEEN CALM AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS CONTINUED NORMALLY, THOUGH SOME MERCHANTS REPORTED A DROP IN SALES DURING THE DAYS OF THE MORE SENSATIONAL RUMORS. ON MARCH 22 TROOPS WERE AT THE BUKAVU AIRPORT DIGGING TRENCHES AND

OTHERWISE PREPARING DEFENSES. SINCE THEN THEIR PRESENCE AT THE AIRPORT HAS DWINDLED TO A HANDFUL OF SOLDIERS, AND NO OTHER INCREASE IN MILITARY PRESENCE HAS BEEN VISIBLE. MISSIONARIES BASED IN BARAKA, NEAR THE PRP TERRITORY, REPORT THE SITUATION UNCHANGED. EXCITEMENT AND TENSION HERE HAVE LESSENED IN RECENT DAYS AS THE SITUATION IN SHABA HAS APPEARED TO STABILIZE, BUT ALL EARS REMAIN OPEN FOR NEWS OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
BOWEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVASIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUKAVU00016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770103-0886
Format: TEL
From: BUKAVU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770323/aaaaatrg.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4b9161b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3000939
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION IN BUKAVU TO RECENT EVENTS IN SHABA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4b9161b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009